

WE CLAIM:

1. A fabric softening composition comprising:

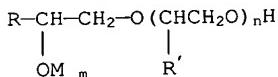
(a) from 0.01 % to 35%, by weight, of a cationic

softener;

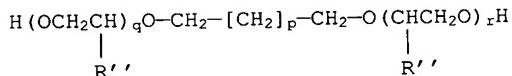
(b) at least 0.001%, by weight, of a water soluble

5 cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization
of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition
monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70
to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-
linking agent; and

10 (c) a perfume, wherein the composition does not
contain an alkoxylated ether of the formula:



15 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-
C₃₀ straight chain or branched chain alkyl, m is an integer
from 0 to about 6, R' is selected from the group consisting
of methyl and ethyl, and n is an integer from about 3 to
20 about 30; or an alkoxylated diether of the formula:



25 wherein R'' is selected from the group consisting of methyl
and ethyl, p is an integer from about 1 to about 6, and each q
and r are independently selected so that their sum is an
integer from about 3 to about 30.

30 2. The fabric softening composition of claim 1,
wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said
polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking
agent.

3. The fabric softening composition of claim 3,
wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said
polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking
agent.

5 4. The fabric softening composition of claim 1,
wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic
vinyl polymer.

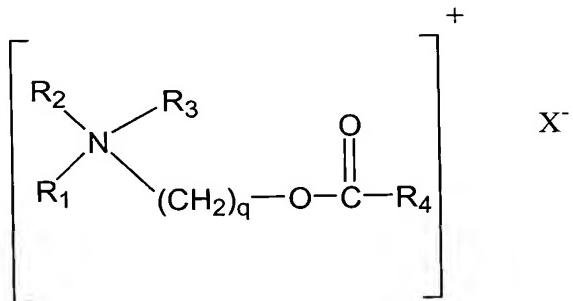
5. The fabric softening composition of claim 4,
wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of
10 an acrylate or methacrylate.

6. The fabric softening composition of claim 5
wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of
dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.

7. The fabric softening composition of claim 1
15 wherein the cationic softener is selected from the group
consisting of esterquats, imidazolinium quats, difatty
diamide ammonium methyl sulfate, and ditallow dimethyl
ammonium chloride.

8. The fabric softening composition of claim 7
20 wherein said cationic softener is an esterquat.

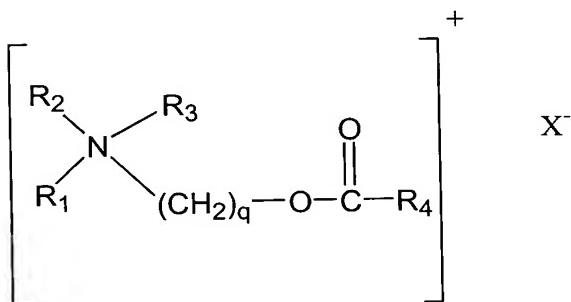
9. The fabric softening composition of claim 8
wherein said esterquat is a biodegradable fatty ester
quaternary ammonium compound having the Formula:



wherein R₄ represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, R₂ and R₃ represent (CH₂)_s-R₅ where R₅ represents an alkoxy carbonyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, benzyl, phenyl, (C₁-C₄) - alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; R₁ represents (CH₂)_t; R₆ where R₆ represents benzyl, phenyl, (C₁-C₄) - alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; q, s, and t, each independently, represent an integer from 1 to 3; and X⁻ is a softener compatible anion.

10 10. A fabric softening composition comprising:

(a) from 0.01% to 35%, by weight, of a cationic softener comprising a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the formula:



15

wherein R₁ is C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R₂ and R₃ are β-C₈-C₂₂-acyloxy ethyl or β-hydroxy ethyl;

R₄ is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22

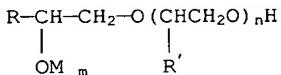
20 carbon atoms;

q is an integer from 1 to 3; and

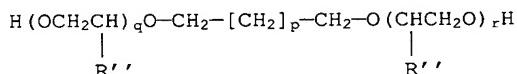
X⁻ is a softener compatible anion;

(b) at least 0.001% of a water-soluble cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 25 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent; and

(c) at least 0.001% of a chelating compound capable of chelating metal ions and selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid compounds, organo aminophosphonic acid compounds and mixtures thereof, wherein
 5 the composition does not contain an alkoxylated ether of the formula:



10 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and C₁-C₃₀ straight chain or branched chain alkyl, m is an integer from 0 to about 6, R' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, and n is an integer from about 3 to
 15 about 30; or an alkoxylated diether of the formula:



20 wherein R'' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, p is an integer from about 1 to about 6, and each q and r are independently selected so that their sum is an integer from about 3 to about 30.

25 11. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

12. The fabric softening composition of claim 10
 30 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

13. The fabric softening composition of claim 10
 wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic
 35 vinyl polymer.

14. The fabric softening composition of claim 13
which said vinyl polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt
of an acrylate or methacrylate.
15. The fabric softening composition of claim 14
5 wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of
dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.
16. The fabric softening composition of claim 10
wherein said chelating compound comprises an amino carboxylic
acid compound.
- 10 17. The fabric softening composition of claim 10
wherein said chelating compound comprises an organo
aminophosphonic acid compound.
18. The fabric softening composition of claim 10
which further comprises a perfume.
- 15 19. Use of a water soluble cross-linked cationic
polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole
percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95
mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 250 ppm of a
difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent to
20 enhance the fragrance delivery from a fabric softening
composition in accordance with claim 1 to the fabric to be
softened.